

In the claims:

1. (currently amended): In an electronic communication system, a method for automated follow-up of a request comprising the steps of:

generating a request of a task at a sender location to carry out a work load assignment action beyond reading and any acknowledgement of receipt of the request to be completed by users at one or more receivers with a deadline for completion of the work load assignment action by the users ~~at a sender location~~ and recording that request at the sender location indicating deadline and automatically setting up a follow-up reminder at the sender location to determine if a request for completion of the work load assignment has been completed by the deadline;

sending that request with a deadline message to said one or more receivers;

receiving said request and deadline at the one or more receivers;

determining at the one or more receivers when the users at the receivers indicate that the requested task is done; and sending a done notice to sender when requested task is completed and said done notice is recorded at the sender location.
- 2.(previously presented): The method of claim 1 wherein said sender determines if a done notice is received and request is completed before said deadline and generates a message to said one or more receivers if it has not been completed and the done notice has not been received by the deadline date.
3. (previously presented): The method of Claim 2 wherein said sender automatically sends a message to said one or more receivers if a deadline date has not been met.
4. (previously presented): The method of Claim 3 wherein said sender also automatically sends a second deadline date with a second message if a deadline has not been met and sets a second follow-up reminder.

5. (previously presented): The method of Claim 4 wherein said sender determines if a done request is completed and a done notice has been received before said second deadline and generates a message to said one or more receivers if it has not been completed by the second deadline date.